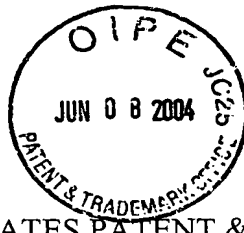


DOCKET NO: 250350US0X DIV



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

THOMAS HERMANN, ET AL. :

ATTN: NEW APPLICATIONS

SERIAL NO: NEW APPLICATION :

FILED: HEREWITH :

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on  
page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.